

**Ecologie des Insectes Forestiers.**—Roger Dajoz. 1980. Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 478 pp. 280 f.f.

This is a fine attempt to present the essential ecological information on the insects associated with forests; particularly, the forests of France and Europe. The first part of the book (4 chapters) describes the forests of France and the general associations of insects. In addition, the last two chapters (17 and 18) on the role of insects in the decomposition of wood and the fauna of the soil constitute an outline of how insects interact with trees. The remaining chapters concentrate on the biology of the defoliators, scales, gall makers, seed utilizers, and wood utilizers. In these chapters there is no attempt to correlate their activities with soil quality, gross stand effects or stability influences. It would have been useful to relate ecological effects of defoliators to changes in soil quality, for example.

Because of the limitation of space, much information about the ecology of forest insects has been omitted. Despite this, the book provides a summary of the life and activities of some of the more economically important insects in European forests. The French literature is particularly well covered with less emphasis on the German and British contributions.

The emphasis on "pest" species is a natural tendency but there are many other species in the forest that contribute to the ecology and survival of trees and associated plants. These species and their interactions should have been discussed in an ecology textbook. Nevertheless, there is much useful information supplemented by numerous graphs, tables and figures which should prove to be valuable to both the advanced student and professional entomologist. Precise analyses of the population dynamics of several species are particularly important because attention is often focused on the physiological adaptations affecting abundance and dispersal. It is this aspect of the book that makes it most useful.—*Gordon R. Stairs, Department of Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.*

**The Biology of Social Insects.**—M. D. Breed, C. D. Michener, and H. E. Evans (eds.). 1982. Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, 419 pp. \$25.00.

During August 9–13, 1982, the International Union for the Study of Social Insects (IUSSI) held its Ninth Congress in Boulder, Colorado. Upon arrival, each participant received a copy of the book, *The Biology of Social Insects*, which contains papers from 10 symposia as well as abstracts representing most of what was to be seen and heard during the meeting. Given the usual hustle and bustle of organizing an international meeting, the production of a finished book, before the start of the meeting, is laudatory, and it reflects the current status of knowledge and ideas about many aspects of the study